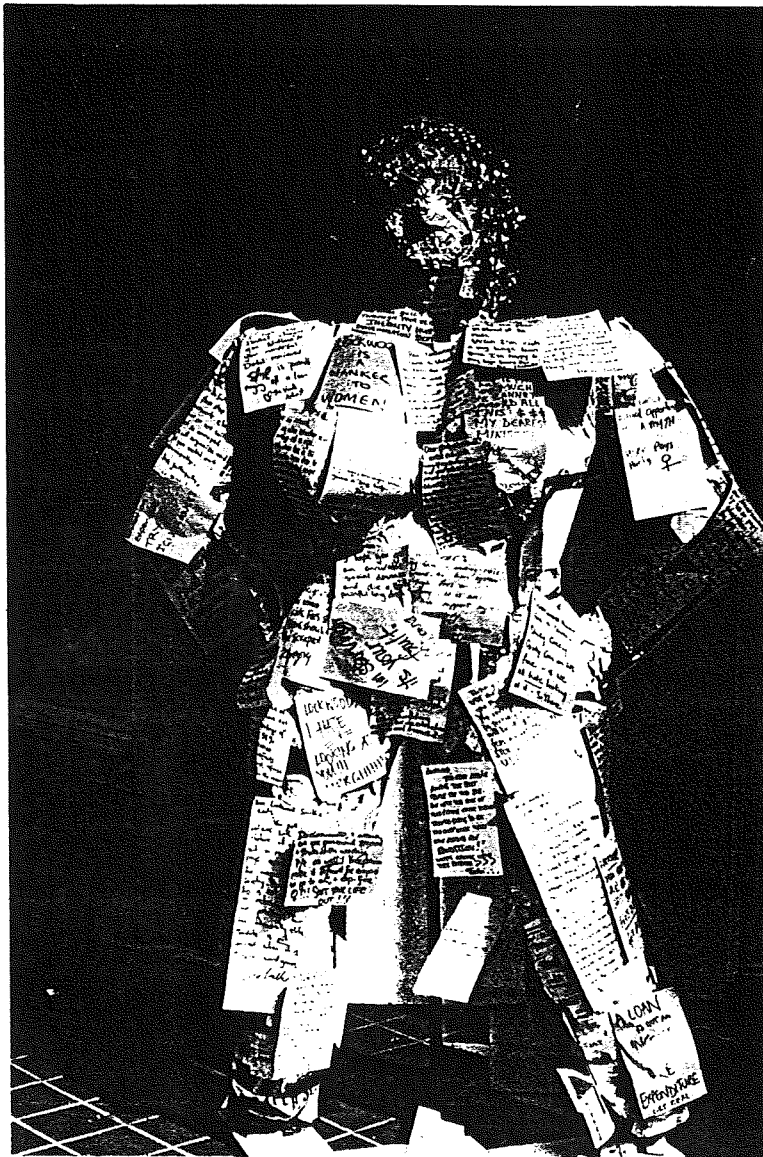


# Aotearoa Youth Network



April 1995 Number 23

## WHAT IS AOTEAROA

### YOUTH NETWORK?

The Aotearoa Youth Network is an organisation dedicated to building links between youth who are active in "progressive" politics. It is open to all and seeks to provide a place for discussion, learning and action across organisations, individuals and causes.

AYN was established at the 1993 Peace, Power and Politics Conference, where over 600 people (including over 150 young people) gathered. The main activity of AYN so far has been the production of a monthly newsletter, which presently goes to over 200 people, and reaches a far wider audience. AYN has established a positive presence in the progressive peoples' movement, and hopes to go beyond "networking" to assist in the formation of new organisations and groups.

We want to put anything in this magazine that you can write - news, articles, poetry, letters, anything. The more you write in, the more this magazine acts as a networking tool. We attempt to print anything you send without cutting but please note:

- We will not print anything that is overtly racist, sexist, homophobic or offensive to any marginalised group. If you want to debate issues that may offend people, try and be very clear about what you are trying to do, and why.

Deadline: 20th May.

# The Moutoa Declaration

We, Tangata Tiriti (The People of the Treaty) - non-Maori allowed to live in this land by right of the Treaty of Waitangi - say to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition and all the generations of parliamentarians before them who have exercised power in the name of the Crown in New Zealand, you have ruthlessly, brutally, arbitrarily and persistently broken every solemn Treaty undertaking you have made with Maori.

From 1862 you have usurped to yourselves the sole and supreme power to legislate - to which you have no right under the Treaty of Waitangi. And you have used that power ever since to marginalise Maori - although the Iwi are your Treaty partners - to rape, pillage, and to destroy, Maori Mana, Maori resources, and Maori commerce, by legalised theft, arbitrary confiscation, and the sheer, naked use of military power and police force. You have so subverted the New Zealand Constitution of 1852, that you have nullified the rights under the Treaty of us Tangata Tiriti, and you have rendered all non-Maori "overstayers" in our own land, that we declare you have no moral authority left, and your institutions and laws we declare to be illegitimate and illegal.

In the name of a far higher moral law to which we subscribe, we Tangata Tiriti declare that all organs of the New Zealand Crown - central, regional, local and non-governmental - will remain illegitimate and illegal until this nation enters with Maori and their Iwi on a bi-national, Tiriti-based, future, and the nation restores the parity and equity between "Rangatiratanga" and "Kawanatanga" it commenced with in 1840.

We further declare that the only

future for Aotearoa-New Zealand which will be one of harmony and hope for all will be one where the Crown enters into constitutional negotiations with Iwi as its Tiriti partners to restore equity and parity between the Crown and Maori, and where the Crown shows towards Maori a generosity of spirit, hitherto lacking, and ask Maori: "What must we do to right the wrongs?" Any other way is like the thief determining the terms and limits of his restitution to his victim.

Maori "tangata whenua" and non-Maori "tangata Tiriti" must walk into the future together with dignity, equity, and equality in a Tiriti based partnership - or there may be no future either.

As a new political era began in 1993 with the advent of MMP, this day at Moutoa Gardens / Pakaitore there has been a new dawning - Ka Awatea - one based on our Treaty Partnership. To our crop of political leaders, to borrow the words of one Oliver Cromwell in 1645 when he dismissed a recalcitrant parliament: "Gentlemen - you have sat here too long. Be gone!"

Titiro ki mua rano ka tike a muri atu. (We must look to the past the put things right for the future).

***This document has been prepared by a synod of Methodist ministers and it is offered for your consideration. On first reading you may find this startling, but it offers a different way of thinking about the way our society work. Wanganui, March 30, 1995.***

# Greenpeace Action

## - Operation Thumbelina

On February 7th the Whaling Ship, the Toshi Maru, sailed into Wellington waters to be greeted by two protesting Greenpeace zodiacs. Greenpeace and animal rights people were outraged at the New Zealand government's support of the whaling vessel, which kills the rare minke whale and then sells the meat to Japanese restaurants and food outlets. The government allowed the ship into the harbour where it was stocked up with food from Wellington businesses and where a crew member with an injured thumb was taken onto land to receive treatment. While the intention was not to impede the treatment of an injured crew member, the anti-whaling action sought to hold up the vessel, if possible, and thereby interfere with its whaling activity in this part of the world, and to bring to the public's attention the presence and purpose of the whaler in these waters, and to expose the Government's complicity in this situation. It is ironic that the New Zealand Government voted for the present moratorium on whaling in this part of the world yet supports whalers when they in our waters with police protection, food and medical services, thereby aiding and abetting these people in the slaughter of a rare and beautiful animal.

The protest action was pretty full on. The media were out in force and brought a helicopter out to sea to capture some sensational shots. They got some ... Greenpeace vessels finally caught up with the whaler on its way back out to the open sea after being detained by the presence of a police boat and police inflatable (which was flashier than our inflatables!) in the Wellington harbour. Some kilometres out to sea we came up alongside the whaler which was travelling very fast

and attempted to board where we would then attach ourselves to the deck until we were removed. Unfortunately for us the New Zealand Government had kindly provided the whaler ship with a few good ol' Kiwi cops on board to prevent us from boarding. They did this by trying to beat the crap out of us and throw us into the sea. Despite their violence, two of our protesters managed to get on board and not get thrown into the sea. Unfortunately they were mauled by police and one protester in particular suffered impressive injuries for his efforts. The police endangered lives that day. The whaler deck was quite close to the surface of the sea and thus relatively simple to board. However, as we attempted to board, our hands and feet were stomped on, and were kicked and punched. There were head injuries, shoulder injuries and major bruising for the demonstrators as a result. At one point I found myself clinging on to the ship railings with my feet dangling in the water thinking 'Oh my God, I'm going to die!' A couple of demonstrators were thrown into the sea by Police - as there were 2 metre waves out there it was quite a task to find people in the water and get them safely back on board the

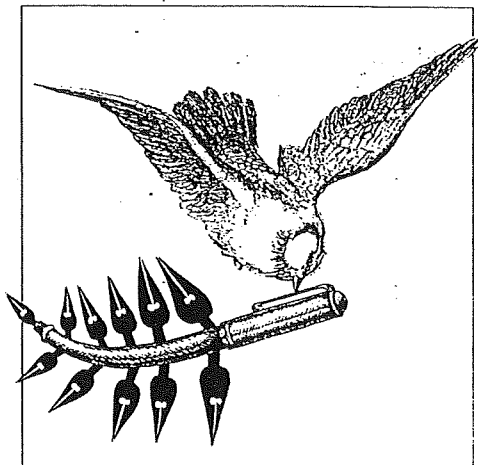
inflatables again. This was needless stupidity on the part of the police. Instead of risking lives they could have detained us on board and removed us from there. But as usual they chose the option of mindless violence.

Despite the harrowing nature of the state response to our fight for the preservation and respect for marine life, the action was a good one. We got good media coverage and the police came out looking like the thugs that they are and the government was embarrassed by its hypocritical stance and its support of activity that many New Zealanders find morally abhorrent. We got media coverage in Britain, Japan and the United States as well. At the end of the day we came out on top.

As I was riding back to dry land from being 20 - 25 km out in the choppy seas, tossed about by waves and bruised and sore from the action (as well as the chains around my waist!), I looked to the side of the zodiac and saw a dolphin leap out of the water. We were escorted back to land by a school of dolphins who put on a display for us, leaping up and then swirling beneath the waves. They stayed with us for some time. They were so beautiful. We were all quite emotional about that because they reminded us why we were out there and they seemed to know what we had been trying to do and were communicating their appreciation. I bet the dolphins didn't escort the police back to land!

Kia kaha,

• Louise May, Wellington.



# Unions in the 90's

Unions in New Zealand are undergoing a quiet revolution in the way they work. The way in which a union works provides hope that the rise of the new right may be challenged by a return to collective organising.

Collectives provide a means to challenge power relationships.

Unions are collective organisations. Over the last hundred odd years as laws changed unions adapted to the laws until some become representatives. It was no wonder that the National Government was able to bring into being the Employment Contracts Act (ECA). The Act was designed to reflect what a lot of people thought - that the union is another group, not the workers themselves choosing to form themselves into a group.

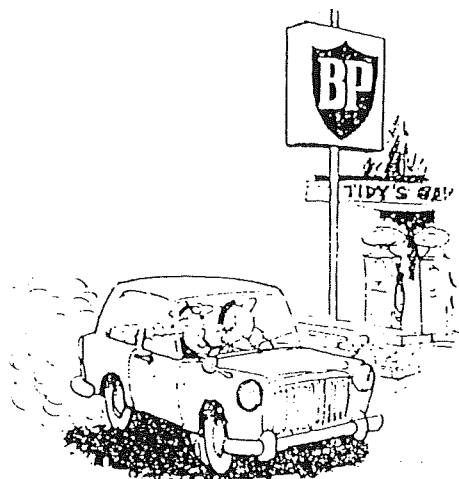
Collectives responses for example: Maori in Whanganui, or Northland, are able to challenge the government and set their own agenda because they have collectivised the issue. Unity, unity, unity. Whenever unity of purpose and a strategy or plan is agreed upon, the chances of success are inevitably better than the dedicated individual working away on their own. Unions (read a group of workers) have been challenged to their core by the individual nature of the ECA. Some workers have responded by shopping around for a bargaining agent, while others have commenced the process of rebuilding a workers movement.

To effectively build a movement of people regardless of belief there must be some type of structure and system. Many young people are missing from the ranks of workplace leadership because of a lack of understanding of union structures and lack of understanding about

what a union is. To help overcome this, here is a brief guide to participation in the workers movement.

Grass roots:

The grass roots of a union is the workplace. A workplace is either organised or not. It is clear cut. To get a workplace organised requires planning and a strategy. If you were to enter a new workplace tomorrow, how would you know if it was organised? Some of the first places to start are by asking, at a local



'I believe it stands for Big Profits.'

union office or checking out notice boards at work. Someone will know. To build a movement requires participation. I urge every reader to participate and to join the workers movement for justice.

If there is no organisation, then the task is to build one, and that requires choosing a union to join up with. Things to look out for are: The level of democracy within the union. Are the structures transparent? Do they place an emphasis on empowerment and training of members and delegates? Are they member friendly? Questions such as what do I get for my money and are there deals on Sky TV are irrelevant. A

union is about power. Power in the workplace has been tipped into the employers favour and 100% unionism is the answer to a lack of workplace power.

The lack of power in the workplace that individuals have is also mirrored in society at large. But we can make a difference by being part of a movement. Unions over the years have been at the forefront of positive change world wide and our country is no different.

Union structures:

The first part of the union structure is in the workplace, the second is a wider collective interest. That maybe as women, as an industry, as Maori, an occupational grouping, as environmentalists, or whatever. Unions provide a means for each of us to tap into a movement that can bring about change. To do that requires participation. The way ahead will be brighter for all of us if one in ten readers go and do something about joining the wider collective. The higher union structures are built around elections and to get into further leadership roles is through having the trust of other workers. This can through being part of a committee that is doing things to improve the lot of workers.

Union structures are forever changing. If it doesn't fit the need, challenge it. If it does, go with it. Join the workers movement, join the union and participate. Together we can overcome the challenge and we can make friends along the way.

One last note - unions are not bargaining agents, we are people, people, people.

• Robert Winters, Wellington.



## Special Leave

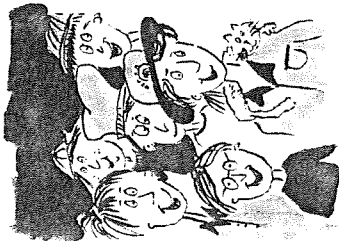
This covers Sick Leave, Domestic Leave and Bereavement Leave. Special Leave allows you a minimum of 5 days leave per year. You need to have worked 6 months in a workplace, then you are allowed 5 days paid leave for the next 12 months.

This is for if YOU are sick, or your partner or child are sick and you have time off to look after them. OR .....If a close relative dies and you need time off to attend tangihanga or a funeral. You may need to provide proof of illness or bereavement. You will be paid what you would normally get if you worked.



## Volunteers Employment Protection.

If you are in the Territorials you can take time off work to attend Training Camps. This does not have to be counted as part of your annual holidays unless YOU want it to.



*You can get help from*

## UNIONS

*Look in the yellow pages*

*Industrial Relations  
Service*

*free phone 0800 800863*

*produced by*

**YOUNG WORKERS  
RESOURCE CENTRE**

P.O Box 9053 Hamilton  
Ph. (07) 839 0094

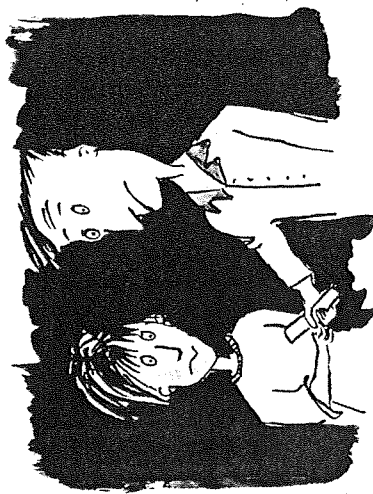
Also by Nicola Dawson & Teresa Gordon

**know  
your  
RIGHTS  
AT  
WORK**

**GETTING A R.A.W. DEAL?**

## Young Workers

Have the same rights as any one else in the work place. Lots of young people don't know these rights and it makes them easy to rip off and take advantage of. If you work you will have an Employment Contract. This sets out the terms and conditions of your job. There are some minimum legal rights that you have whether they are written in a contract or not.



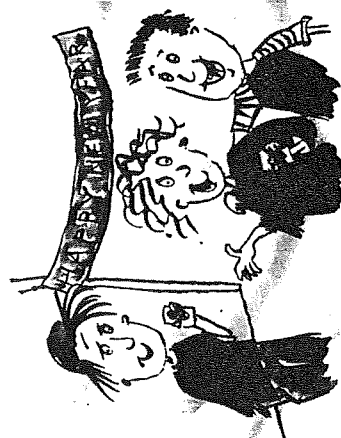
## Minimum wage

If you are working there are minimum rates of pay. This works out for 16-19 yr olds at \$3.68 per hour, or \$147.20 for a 40 hour week (before tax). For 20 year olds and over it is \$6.12 per hour. A 40 hour week works out at \$245.00 (before tax). Remember these are only minimums. You will probably be paid more. You can't be paid less (unless you're under-going certain training).



## 11 Public Holidays

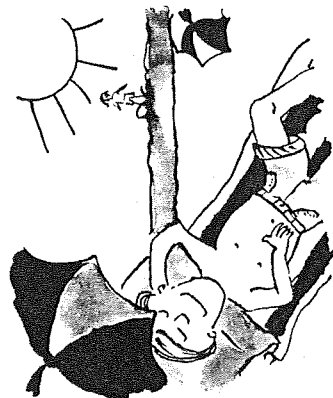
If you normally work on the days that a public holiday falls, you will either get the day off with normal pay OR work that day and have another day off, that you would normally work, with pay. It depends on what your contract says whether you get paid double time or not for working on a public holiday. These are normally:



New Years Day  
January 2nd  
Anniversary Day  
Waitangi Day  
Good Friday  
Easter Monday  
ANZAC Day  
Queens Birthday  
Labour Day  
Christmas Day  
Boxing Day

## Holidays

After you have worked for 1 year in a workplace you get three weeks ANNUAL HOLIDAYS with pay, for the next whole year. You should get your ordinary weekly pay, or if your wages vary each week you'll get the average of your earnings over the whole year, whichever is highest. If you leave before 12 months are up, you get 6% of total earnings before tax, when you leave.



## Parental Leave

You can take up to one years UNPAID LEAVE from your job if:

- You are pregnant
- Your partner is pregnant

OR

- You are adopting a child under five years.

You must have worked for the same employer for at least 12 months and worked at least 10 hours per week. Either parent can take the leave to care for your new child. Parental Leave is not automatic. You need to apply for it.

## Health and Safety

It is your right to work somewhere that is healthy and safe for you to work in. Your employer has to ensure that you are aware of dangers and they have to minimise the risk to your health and safety. This includes providing safety equipment. You have to make sure that you follow the procedures to keep yourself safe. If you do have an accident or injury, tell the boss immediately!



## ACC

If you are off work on a work related accident, your employer pays you 80% of your ordinary weeks wage for the first week after the accident. After that ACC pays you 80% of your wages.

# The Young Workers Resource Centre

## Who are we?

The Young Workers Resource Centre (YWRC) is a non profit community funded organisation. We educate young people about employment legislation and their duties obligations and rights in the workplace. Our aim is to give young workers the necessary information and skills to be active and confident when applying for employment. We try to motivate young people to achieve their full employment potential. We show them interview and negotiating skills, and encourage young people to be active participants in the wider community.

YWRC was founded in 1993. Funding received supported teaching and resource development projects in a specified geographical area. However, we have taught further afield, as far as Te Kauwhata to Whakatane, including the areas between.

We believe that young people are particularly vulnerable in employment. Most young people are not equipped with the knowledge or experience to deal with a job interview much less negotiate their employment contract. Not do they know how to behave in the work environment.

A "youth voice" is seldom acknowledged by greater society. YWRC aims to give youth the skills to have a "voice" and become active participants in their employment and carry those skills into the local community.

## What does the YWRC do?

Bridge the gap between education and employment.

Increase young peoples awareness about the working environment, how to discuss issues with their employer, employment realities, skills that will help you find a job, interview skills, employment contracts (what should be in them and how to negotiate them), and obligations and

rights within employment. We discuss holidays, special leave, health and safety, parental leave, minimum wages and sexual harassment.

Act as advocates for young people.

Liaise with Politicians, (both locally and nationally) and Hamilton City Council. We provide them with a youth perspective, and discuss current issues that involve young people.

Collect anecdotal examples of young people's experiences in both trying to obtain, and in, employment.

We encourage young people both locally and nationally to voice their concerns and opinions about current legislation and issues that affect them. Motivate youth to gain skills to become active participants in the community.

Provide a drop in centre for young people who seek employment information and advice.

Help young people to keep on contact with the correct organisations that will help.

Network with other organisations concerned with similar issues.

Liaise with the media to provide a youth perspective to employment issues and issues relating young people.

## What has the YWRC achieved?

YWRC has taught over 3,000 students in 1994.

We have educated young people in schools, Polytechnics, Continuing Education, Varsity and other training institutions. We teach predominantly in the greater Waikato area, but have taught as far away as Whakatane, Tauranga, Coromandel, Thames, Rotorua and Taupo.

Such has been the demand that

YWRC has had to expand from one full time staff member to two.

YWRC has produced a pamphlet titled "Getting a R.A.W. deal? Know your rights at work." This has been so successful that we are on our second reprint. We have also been asked to do a pamphlet on Sexual Harassment.

YWRC has produced a Resource Kit that will be sold to schools, training institutions and libraries.

We have been instrumental in establishing a Hamilton City Youth Council to liaise with Hamilton City Council, and to look at problems that affect Hamilton youth, ie., bored teenagers in town on Friday night.

We have also been instrumental in establishing an Interschool Council.

We have established a Youth Action Committee (YAC) who have successfully campaigned and petitioned Government to raise the minimum youth wage.

We have established links with a variety of local and national organisations and also have a good working relationship with Government and community agencies.

We have developed a good relationship with local Government representatives and MP's, both Labour and National.

We have developed a good relationship with local government representatives.

We have started work on a survey, exploring young people's work experiences.

We have developed comprehensive lesson plans (from 1 to 10 lessons).

We are a recognised media contact for Youth perspectives.

• Catherine Hodges, YWRC, Hamilton.



# Experiences of Pakaitore

After getting three rides while hitching which covered the spectrum - one amazing, one so-so, and the other awful, Mary and I finally made it to Whanganui at about 2pm on Thursday 30th April, the day of the end of deadline for the occupants of Pakaitore marae. The town was tension filled. When we asked for directions to the marae we were given curious cold looks. There were quite a few people on the streets for a town of that size. I had a sense of walking into a scene from an intense movie. It was real and unreal at the same time.

We got to the marae and were welcomed on according to the traditional protocol. The feeling was warm. Some of the old kuia especially radiated a pleasure at the arrival of supporters, even pakeha live me who definitely did not fit in and were a minority on the marae. I felt privileged to be made to feel welcome there and to be part of the statement that is being made at the Motua Gardens.

After the welcome we listened to speakers like Moana Jackson and Eva Rickard and then were treated to Waiata and bands that

played until about 11.30, just before the midnight curfew. There were cops crawling all over the place. They circled the marae and stood around looking smarmy. So were the staff at the Wanganui Computer across the way. They were looking down on us from a balcony poking fun and acting amused. As the afternoon deadline for eviction approached the crowd at the marae began to feel a bit tense. We didn't know if the police were going to try and come on and evict everybody. There were about 1700 of us, so it wouldn't have been an easy thing to do and as the people were wearing long batons we knew that they were ready to act violently (as usual!). Rumours were going round that there were hundreds of cops waiting out at Ohakea air base, ready to sweep in at the deadline. Luckily that turned out to be a rumour only. However, it did make people fearful of how the day was going to go.

I myself did not expect that the police would really come onto the marae. It would have contradicted everything that the higher police authorities and the council were saying. It would have made them look too bad - I believe they'll wait it out for a bit and let the

legal processes begin before they play dirty. They'll wait until the Pakaitore Marae reclamation is old news and has lost its place in the media limelight before they get heavy handed and violent. That is why we must keep up support and not abandon this issue. I think the police and council are counting on a drop off of support, so let's not give them the satisfaction!

Until the police storm in, they'll continue to intimidate and harass and arrest people for the sake of it.

Nothing happened. The police did not come in. The night came and we had kai together and sang and listened to music and talked and laughed. Finally we all started heading towards bed (for most people under the big marquees that had been set up for that purpose, or in tents). We didn't know if the police would hit while we were all asleep so people were not completely relaxed, but there was a feeling of calm and inward peace despite the uncertainty. That sounds like a contradiction, but you know what I mean!

The media are making it out to be a gang

situation of course. This couldn't be further from the truth. As usual the press are picking on a couple of incidents and exploiting them. They've tried to make out that the entire Pakeha population of Whanganui are scared of the gangs, and the people at the gardens. That's so wrong. Did you know that some of the Pakeha residents encircled the gardens before the deadline to protect the marae from the police? You don't hear that in the media because it is not violent, therefore not sensational enough. I didn't see any violence the whole time I was there.

Meetings are held regularly on the marae to discuss responses to the crown and council's position on the status of the land, the legal aspects, and so on. The bottom line however, is simple. They will not move until the land is returned. The marae residents are there for the duration. This is why we must be vigilant and keep up our support. I believe that there may come a point where heavy handed tactics will be used against the marae occupants and supporters (at least, on a larger scale than has already happened). A repeat of the state violence and thuggery at Bastion Point would not surprise many.

Personally, I am not at all confident that justice will be served in this situation. I fear that at best the government (crown if you like), which has been trying to fob off this issue onto the Whanganui City Council when it is not really their concern, will try to come up with a half hearted compromise, and at worst they will not back down and will send in their thugs in blue to eliminate this embarrassment and annoyance. Time will tell.

A group of supporters here in Wellington are planning to hold a fund raising dinner for the Moutoa Gardens occupants. The group against the Fiscal Envelope here - NION (Not in Our Name) have organised public rallies and money collection. We encourage others up and down the country to do the same.

• Louise May, Wellington

## The Maaori Purposes Bill

Kia ora kouto,

This Bill was introduced to the House on approximately 23rd March 1995, by the Minister of Maaori Affairs, Hon John Luxton.

It was apparently referred to the Maaori Affairs Select Committee, who have requested submissions from interested parties, to be received by the closing date of Friday April 28.

Apart from some alarm bell ringing on Mana News, by Rotorua lawyer Rawiri Rangitauira, there has been very little publicity about this bill, which contains significant amendments to four pieces of Maaori Affairs Legislation.

Of most obvious concern are the following amendments to the Maaori Trustee Act 1953:

1. The existing obligations of the Maaori Trustee to pay unclaimed money, (in designated proportions), to the Maaori Purposes Fund, the New Zealand Maaori Council and the Maaori Education Trust is replaced with the provision that it may be paid to the General Purposes Fund.
2. The requirement that the Maaori Trustee, in each financial year, makes payments from the General Purposes Fund, to the Maaori Education Trust and the Maaori New Zealand Council is repealed.

3. The powers of the Maaori Trustee to make grants from the General Purposes Fund to the Maaori Purposes Fund Account and to expend or apply money from the General Purposes Fund for other certain philanthropic purposes are repealed.

Other Acts amended by the new Bill are - Maaori Affairs Restructuring, Maaori Community development and Te Ture Whenua Maaori.

I haven't had time to determine if the actual amounts involved are anything more than symbolic when compared with contributions from general taxation. However, the basic

principles of consultation and transparency appear to have been grossly breached.

If you have time, please consider the following action. Write an IMMEDIATE submission to the Chairperson of the Maaori Affairs Committee detailing:

1. Your concerns about the detail of the Bill and the process followed so far.
2. A request that the deadline for submissions be extended by at least 5 weeks, so that opinion can be more widely canvassed.
3. An indication that in any event you wish to present your submission in person.

(Pakehaa could use such an appearance as an opportunity to attack the process - a product of our own mono cultural power structure!)

Note that even if your submission is very brief it will probably give you the right to develop the arguments in more detail, in writing, after the close off date.

Copies of the Ministers speech when introducing the Bill are available for \$1 from:

Ngaa Kaiwhakanekeneke, C/- John Tovey, 30 Gavin Rd, Raumati Beach, Te Tai-Aa-Kapiti.  
Phone 297 2294 home, 237 9350 work.



## Ideas for AYN

I am hoping to initiate some discussion through the magazine on where readers and people in the Network would like to see AYN going over the next few years. Is this as much as people think AYN should be, or do we want it expanding? different? It would be good to have an update from the Dunedin collective - how are subscriptions going, how is it going for them, do they still want to be doing it and for how long?

I think that if we are hoping that AYN will expand, and that young people will subscribe, then it would be worth looking more carefully at what we are offering. The ideas that I would like to suggest would all involve more work, and a more directive role for the people putting together the magazine. One suggestion is that they could either build up a regular group of writers from different regions and movements, or ask people to write articles or responses to previous articles. Another suggestion would be to have a theme for each issue, or perhaps two-thirds of each issue. The topics could be publicised in advance so that people have time to put together their ideas - this is similar to the way the Broadsheet magazine is put together.

I thought these suggestions might help to make the objective of bringing us together through the magazine more constructive, by focusing discussion on an issue (eg Maori sovereignty), or developing debate beyond one or two individual responses. However this might not be what people want out of the newsletter - responses please!!

I would also like to suggest that at this years Peace Workshops we have another AYN workshop, so we can look at where we have got to a year on from the last meeting, and where we can go from there.

Kate McPherson, Wellington.

## 25 years since Kent State

On May 4th, 1970, our campus was changed forever. At 12.24 pm members of Troop G and Company A of the Ohio National Guard opened fire for a period of 13 seconds. Those 13 seconds ended with the death of 4 full time Kent State Students and the wounding of 9 others (permanently paralysing one). This event is forever linked with our campus, whether witnessing the shootings, hearing about it through the media, or learning about it through history books - most people identify Kent with the shootings.

Kent was never a heavily active campus, but did have strong small groups of activists who were against the war in Vietnam. The war in Vietnam, as admitted by William McNamera recently, could have been stopped in the late 60's. If this had occurred, Bill Schroeder, Allison Krause, Jeffrey Miller and Sandra Sheuer may have had the chance to experience more that life had to offer, along with thousands of other young Americans who lost their lives

fighting a war that had no purpose.

The week of April 30th - May 4th, Kent State University will examine many of the aspects of these events, from the perspective of veterans returning to a country that opposed the war they fought so hard for, student activists who protested the war and current students who are now finding their voices again after 25 years. We invite all to attend these programs, under the theme "In the footsteps of history, we march with them". Or create your own local programming.

We, as current Kent State students, ask that all colleges and universities observe 13 seconds of silence on May 4th, 1995 at 12.24, in tribute to not only the lives of our fellow Kent State students, but also to the lives lost and lives forever changed by the war in Vietnam.

Peace.

May 4 Task Force.

Kent State University.

United States of America.

## National Peace workshops 1995

Te Aatea: The Bridges we make with each other.

Queens Birthday Weekend, June 2-5 at Riverside Community (near Motueka).

Workshops include Maaori - Pakeha issues (a special emphasis of the workshops this year).

AYN workshop.

Activist Skills.

Foreign Control.

Waihopai Spybase.

Tour of Riverside Community

\$80 Waged, \$45 Unwaged.

For 1 day and night, \$21 Unwaged, \$30 waged.

For info, write to PMA Box 9314, Te Aro, Wellington, phone 04 382 8129

OR: National Peace Workshops, Julie Cave, Motueka. Phone 03 526 7701.

To register, write to National Peace Workshops, Riverside Community, RD 2 Upper Motueka.

Different food preferences can be catered for. Contact the above for info about this, and about creche needs.

# Anarcha - Feminist Conference.

On February 17 - 19th the 3rd Annual Anarcha feminist Conference was held at Makahika Lodge near Levin. Roughly 50 women attended and took part in workshops, group discussions and general sharing. Workshops and discussions included: Introduction to Anarcha Feminism; where to go from here with the Anarcha Feminist Movement; Class; the Fiscal Envelope; Sexuality and Homophobia; Eco feminism Group Process and consensus decision making; Lesbian workshop; Community justice for sexual offenders; and so on. We were very lucky to have two German feminists turn up during the conference who gave us a fascinating talk about feminism in Germany before and after the Berlin Wall.

Overall the feeling seemed to be that the workshops and discussion were fruitful and that people did learn things and take away new knowledge, ideas and perspectives. Often we felt that the time allocated for workshops was never long enough because there was so much to be discussed and our topics could be thrashed out for ages before people were happy to leave them. There was definitely a lot to talk about! I myself came away with the feeling that I has learned a lot from the conference, but also that

the workshops needed to be a little longer than 1 and a half hours. That's something to keep in mind for the next workshop. We had a variety of people at the conference including those familiar with anarcha-feminist concepts and those without, activists and people new to activism and so on. It was really good to get people along who were new to anarcha-feminism because it felt as though we were providing information that isn't readily available through mainstream sources to people and that we were offering an introduction to a different way of looking at society to people who were interested in challenging traditional right wing and left wing beliefs. Again though, the time thing was against us and it would have been better if we had had the opportunity to go into some particular issues in more depth, like "How feasible is an anarchist society?" and "Can we really live without a State?" Next time, eh.

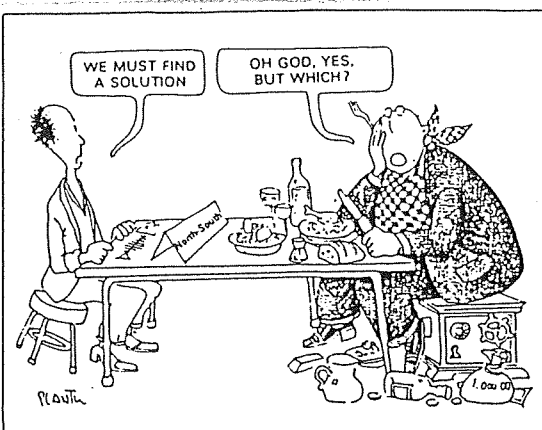
I think we all learned a lot from that conference. One or two women afterwards expressed concern about cliques that were obvious over the weekend and how these had the effect of making some individuals feel a bit isolated. It is definitely something to be aware of when you're organising / attending a large gathering where everyone may not know each other. One way to try to avoid this problem could be to start off conferences etc, with 'getting to know one another' activities that break down barriers between strangers and start a dialogue between them (and eventually a friendship?!!). It is also difficult when an event is taking place over a very short period of time and



there may not be much time outside of workshops etc to get to know each other. This should also be considered when organising a conference. After all, if we can't relate to each other on a personal level, how can we hope to build a strong movement? The Katipo Collective (the anarcha feminist group in Wellington who organised the conference) have discussed this and ways to improve how conferences are run for our future efforts.

Overall people seemed to have enjoyed the conference and got a lot out of it. Reports back have been mainly positive. I think the banquet and the evening performances on the Saturday night were enjoyed by most - I laughed my head off! The Random Trollops performed, the Hags (two feminist performance groups), Anita Spencer with her amazing bicycle stunts and various individuals who performed with dance, poetry, and fire sticks. It was sad to see everyone go on the Saturday night as I had just started to get to know some new people, and nut out some ideological and practical ideas when it was time to go. Sigh. But it makes me determined to keep on explaining anarcha-feminism and to come back next year and give it another go and do better!

• Louise May, Wellington



# Letters to the Network

## Region Updates

Dear AYN,

I've been back for only a few days from a National Youth Worker Training Hui held in Ngaruawahia on 6 - 10 March, supported by Internal Affairs and Youth Affairs. Speakers ranged from the political to the practical. Workshops focused on issues such as resourcing and funding to ethical standards. Social times created by being together were tino choice. The key outcome was to begin to work towards a national body to represent youth workers.

Frustration at the dependence on government controlled sources of funding which are inadequate and are controlled by people who have little idea what the real issues facing young people were expressed.

Ensuring the place of Te Tiriti in youth work and policies affecting youth was stressed by some people.

The session I found most valuable examined models of youth work. Traditionally a medical model has been used in youth work on the basis that there is something wrong with young people that needs to be cured. A much more positive approach is to look at youth in development focusing on education, empowerment, action and social and political change. In our monetary motivated society youth have been marginalised. As someone said "It takes a community to raise a child as a successful adult".

Arohanui,

Matthew Roberts,  
Methodist Youth Connexion.

Wellington:

The Radical Society at Victoria University has had busy start to the year. Activities so far include forums on Fiscal Envelop, Fletcher Challenge and East Timor. All have been well attended and successful. Rad Soc also handed out leaflets in central Wellington on World Anti Fletcher Challenge Day to over 500 people. News of coming Rad Soc events will be included in the "Coming Up" section of AYN.

Dunedin:

Dunedin has been busy, with the first Education Action Group mass action, to be held on May 3, under preparation. A number of people have been attending workshops on Non Violence philosophy and Direct Action. Sue Bradford and Jane Kelsey came down from Auckland to attend the 'Working for Change' conference, and Sue spoke at Students Association and AYN forums. Lisa Beech and Paul Mundar from Street Art Aotearoa ran a two day workshop on Popular Theatre early in the month for 30 people, before heading down to Milton to produce a play with the locked out Textile workers there.

The Education Action Group held its first direct action on April 21 when Lockwood Smith opened a new library at Kings High School. 25 - 30 people trooped out to south Dunedin to hand out leaflets and make links with school pupils, and to give Locky our point of view. The protest was low key, happy and enjoyable, but a large number of cops and diplomatic protection (who had swept the school for bombs the day before) caused problems. They made one arrest after Lockwood had left (for obstructing a police officer in the course of his duty).



# US Students in Action

On March 29, American Students and public responded to the "Contract with America" with a nation wide day of action. Thousands of students across the country marched and rallied in opposition to the contract, which is the platform that the republican government stood on in the last election. This sweeping programme of reform has been described in the United States as a "revolutionary agenda of social inequality and environmental disregard." The similarities to changes implemented by the National Government in recent years is unmistakable.

The contract, if implemented, would have a number of effects. It is estimated that it would push 2 million students out of education, and deny financial aid to six million more. It punishes the poor for their economic status, adversely affects minority groups such as Afro-Americans, Women, immigrants, non hetero-sexuals and the young, as well as the environment. Supporters of the contract have already pushed their changes using anti-gay rhetoric, and the contract not only seeks to reduce benefits for solo mothers who cannot establish the father, but also to freeze all additional benefits for mothers under 18. (For more info on the contract see last months AYN).

The UCP / Centre for Campus Organising met early in March and agreed on a national day of action on March 29th. Already Antioch students in Colombus had been assaulted and tear gassed by police in protests against the Contract (see last months AYN for reports). Organised in the main on the Internet and by email this mammoth effort exploded early on March 23, when 10,000 New York students marched against the Contract.

This massive protest of mainly

CUNY students was reported in the New York Post as "angry and violent" students "broke through the barricades", and the New York Times stated that students had initiated the violence by "knocking down one officer". However, Village Voice reporters on the scene gave a different view. A summary of the report by Esther Kapland and Alisa Solomon is given below.

After a 2 hour rally, the students sought to march from City Hall Park to Wall Street. They were met by Mace carrying police officers, and were forced to march up and down the length of City Hall Park, stopped by Police each time they sought to leave the park. The only exit remaining was the subway, yet the police had pulled the plug on the student p.a., so there was no way to tell this to the students. As the students pushed into the barricades the famed officer fell, not pushed by students as the Post and Times reported, but in an open section of ground. The police responded by charging into the crowd through the barricades, and mounted police rode into the crowd.

As the students sat down the police began to use Mace and batons, dragging the students from the crowd and either loading them into police vans or beating them, slamming them into the ground or against plate glass windows. A reporter with visible credentials was tackled and then choked by a police captain. Countless numbers of

students sought medical aid and were not reported, some who had been pepper gasses or maced were told by the police to "forget it". All of this took place within the legal demonstration area.

Perhaps the most interesting reaction though is not that of the police but of the state's officials and the press. The rally was predominantly made up of CUNY students, mostly poor, immigrants, and coloured people, who the state seems to think don't deserve a first rate education, and possibly not even an education at all. One person who took the loudhailer during the rally pointed out that the state is building prisons while cutting education. "They're saying that we belong in jail, not in college," she said. The state's response was that "Instead of protesting" students should "go find a job for the day", obviously unaware that two thirds of CUNY students work 20 - 40 hours a week, and that 91 percent at Hostos Community College live beneath the poverty line, and ignoring the fact that New York rates 47th in the US in State spending on public education.

The media also refused to show up the inequities in the changes, and what really happened in the protest. They made much of the fact that some student placards spelt a state officials name (Giuliani) wrong. They obviously found it much harder to translate "Educari ius est non beneficium", which clearly shows





the reason why funding for these students has been dropped. They also did not report the march of 3000 professors in caps and gowns across the Brooklyn Bridge, a powerful and dignified image of the opposition to the cuts.

A rally that brought together a wide range of people, a march that was multi-racial and multi-ethnic, as diverse as the students of CUNY themselves. And it points towards the possibility of a broad and strong grass roots movement, which can work against the contract.

Opposition to the contract continued on March 29, when over 105 campuses, in 34 states spoke out in opposition to the reforms. Students and community activists rallied and participated in hunger strikes in over 34 states. In Detroit, one thousand participated in a rally. At Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, 800 people rallied and 58 students started a hunger strike. In Minneapolis 200 people rallied for 2 hours in the snow, listening to speakers and chanting.

At the University of Indiana, the national day of action coincided with a visit by the Secretary of State, Warren Christopher. After state police troops forced the students to move their march away from the student union building where he was speaking, some students broke police lines and chanted at the Secretary.

In particular the contract has been identified as attacking women and children. Nothing showed this clearer than a rally at the capital on April 9, where an estimated 200,000 demonstrated against violence

against women, attacks on abortion clinics, and against the contract. Organised by the National Organisation for Women, the protest was endorsed by a record 702 organisations.

The rally brought together women from almost all areas of society in opposition to violence, both physical violence and the economic violence that the contract represents. Women of colour, lesbians, workers, women suffering in poverty, victims of rape and assault, community workers and activists all spoke at this rally and voiced their anger.

America will again voice its anger at the contract on a National Day of Action of May 6, three days after Australian and New Zealand students take to the streets in protest. American activists are building a powerful campaign, and expect protests to be bigger this time. Perhaps with so many countries fighting cutbacks in student aid, an International Day of Action is not out of the question. It makes you aware that we are not the only ones suffering under a right wing agenda.

Anyone who wants the email address of mailing lists of news groups to learn more about what is happening in America, feel free to email me. The address is at the back of AYN. Newt Gingrich's (the republican leader of the house who is pushing these changes) email address is

<georgia6@hr.house.gov>. Feel free to drop him a line, there are several thousands Americans who are doing so!

Collated from the Internet by Kyle Matthews, Otepoti.

## Coming Up

### Protests at Asia Development Bank Meeting.

Monday May 1: Mayday Union March from QE2 Square, 1pm.

Tuesday May 2: 10am, rally against Bill Birch and Don Brash. 12.30pm. Rally against privatisation seminar.

Wednesday May 3: Demonstration at ADB opening.

Thursday May 4: Rally with Leonor Briones and student reps from East Timor.

Meet at Lorne St for all rallies.

**Radical Society Forum with Leonor Briones.** May 2, Victoria University. Contact Alistair Shaw or Christina Rizos

**Asia - Pacific Students Meeting.** Early May, Auckland. Write to Bruce Cronin at Auckland University Students Association for info.

**National Day of Action on Timor.** May 12.

**In the Heart of the City.** A training and development programme for young people in social service and transformation. May 7 - 19. Write to Andrew Botting, Anglican Centre, PO Box 12 046, Wellington.

**Radical Society Forum - Freedom of Speech.** May 30, Victoria University. Contact Alistair Shaw or Christina Rizos.

## WHAT CAUSES HETEROSEXUALITY?

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# Worth a Read

Animal Info. News for Animal Liberation from Box 22-458 Christchurch. \$1 by mail, \$5 for 15 copies.

Common Ground, newsletter of the Peoples' Network. \$10 per year from PO Box 3813 Auckland.

Mean Times. Mag of the Auckland Unemployed Workers Rights Centre, PO Box 3813 Auckland. \$10 for a year.

Savage State. Christchurch based anarchist / punk rock zine. \$3 an issue from Po Box 13 585 Christchurch.

The State Adversary. Anarchist Wellington based mag, \$10 for a year.

Support these magazines - they support us!

The coming month may prove to be a crucial one. The government faces changes to electorate boundaries and self centred scrabbling for power and privilege from its own MP's. It is looking on in dread as two citizens initiated petitions have passed the 250,000 mark, and it fears more. The growing anger amongst workers and the prospect of a minimum wage campaign led by the Trade Union Federation are looming in the mind of the Right. More and more occupations by Maaori of their land (and the support amongst sections of Pakeha) are presenting a direct challenge to the legitimacy of the Pakeha colonial state. Student protests are about to get under way again, and hopefully reach new highs with increased involvement from the Tech's and increased militancy. And the Asian Development Bank and the paranoid reaction of the State forces to democratic criticism have focused the minds and attention of the media on protest, it causes and consequences.

The combination of events may prove powerful. I don't believe that major change comes without major unrest. Such unrest is present in Aotearoa, beneath the surface. This should provide us with hope, not with fear of 'destroying our image', or fear of the conflict that it brings. We should hope that the unrest is brought out into the open - for only then will people be able to truly express their concerns and problems, their perspectives, and their visions for the future.

It is important that we get involved in the events of May. Look critically upon the media reports, work out what you believe independently of what others are telling you to believe, and act accordingly. If people get involved, this will be an exciting and challenging time. Kia Kaha!

Remember Kent Statell

## Subscriptions:

\$9 Unwaged / Student

\$18 Waged

\$25 Organisation

\$50 Institution

This subscription is for a whole year (12 issues). If you cannot afford this, write to us and we will send you AYN anyway. We appreciate any and all articles, news, art, criticism and gossip!

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